

**The Long Term Care Coordinating Council
Aging in Community Subcommittee**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Location: SHALOM APARTMENTS MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY ROOM
2 Shalom Drive, Warwick RI

Time: 9:10am-10:40am

Attendance: Heather Amaral, Deb Burton, Barbara Capalbo, Rosa Castillo, Catherine Cool Rumsey, John Dooley, Bill Flynn, Cathy Gorman, Judy Jones, Maureen Maigret, Kathy Mckee, Connie Milbourne, Paula Parker, Susan Pomfret, Marianne Raimondo, Jennifer Reid, Bonnie Sekeres, Michael Walker, Richard Staplers (guest)

1. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2015 – The minutes as distributed were approved by unanimous vote
2. Richard Staples, Chair of the Board of Housing Works RI gave a presentation on Seniors and Housing in Rhode Island (Nicole Lagace had originally been scheduled to do the presentation, but Mr. Staples came in her place). Mr. Staples also provided copies of the 2015 Housing Works RI Fact Book. It is available online at: http://www.housingworksri.org/sites/default/files/HWRI_FB15.pdf
Mr. Staples answered questions and briefly discussed how “affordable” housing was measured in regards to a community’s percent of affordable housing units.
A copy of the presentation is attached.
3. Bonnie Sekeres, Exec. Director of Shalom Housing discussed subsidized housing in RI and gave specific information about Shalom Housing.
 - Shalom – for persons age 62 and over and persons with disabilities with income below \$42,000. Average age is 80.3 yrs, females 74% of tenants, Avg rent:\$410
 - Shalom II – for persons age 62 and over with income below \$16,000
 - Average age: 79.2 yrs, Females are 85% of tenants, Avg rent: \$307
 - Average tenant turnover is 10 persons/year and has remained steady
 - Shalom has Wait list that runs between 60 and 70 persons. HUD requires certain percent of tenants to be at various income levels so that impacts how persons are selected for residency
 - Shalom provides a menu of support services including: mealsite, resident service coordinator, weekly transport for shopping, social activities, convenience store, crafts and exercise classes
 - Nationally, one out of three elders living in rental units and average rent is 43% of their income

- Seniors who rent who have income under \$14,000/yr spend 74% of income on rent
 - One in three elders receive rental assistance for housing
 - HUD no longer providing funding for construction of senior housing
 - Country would have to add 65,000 units/yr over next 15 years to keep up with demand
 - Ms. Sekeres noted that reports on the number of units of subsidized elderly housing in RI it should be noted that some of the units are occupied by non-elders with disabilities. About ten years ago there was an effort to determine how many RI elders lived in subsidized housing. At the time the estimate was 13-15%. However, a more recent figure is not available.
4. Jennifer Reid, Project Director for RI Money Follows the Person (MFP) program provided a brief overview of MFP. It is a five year program that started in 2011 through a federal grant and works in coordination with the state's Nursing Home Transition program to transition persons out of nursing homes back to community settings. One of the biggest barriers they face is finding adequate, affordable housing for persons wishing to transition. They have worked to create preferences in subsidized housing for persons transitioning out of nursing homes and MFP has created a Housing subcommittee which is led by Jessica Mowry. The Housing Committee is developing a Strategic Plan which they would be pleased to report on at another meeting as Jessica was not able to attend today as she was leading a group working on "hoarding" issues which has been noted by housing managers as a problem for some tenants. Ms. Maigret noted that since the nursing home transition program began slightly over 1000 persons have been transitioned out of nursing homes.
5. Report from the Chair
- a. Ms. Maigret reported that as a follow-up to their Focus Group work for the Subcommittee, Professors Raimondo and Milbourne through the RI College Foundation have submitted a grant application to the Tufts Foundation to provide funding to continue to assist with the work of the Aging in Community. A site visit by Tufts Foundation staff was held recently which Ms. Maigret attended. The grant awards will be announced in mid-December.
 - b. Ms. Maigret noted that copies of the 'Veterans, Elderly, and Other Tax Exemption Programs' Report published by the state Department of Revenues had been distributed. She noted that the burden of Property taxes had been mentioned in the focus groups and it was important for persons to be aware of what exemptions might be provided by the different localities to help offset tax liability. She cautioned that persons reviewing the report should check with their local Tax Assessors offices to make sure the data was correct. Mr. Salter recommended that persons in the programs offering taxpayer assistance in filing taxes should be made aware of these exemptions so they can advise clients. Ms. Maigret asked Ms. Parker from DEA to follow up on this recommendation. The document is available online at:
http://www.municipalfinance.ri.gov/documents/data/exemptions/exemptions_report.p

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c. Ms. Maigret noted that two issues she would like the Subcommittee to address at future meetings were Mental Health issues in Elders and Economic Security.

7. Public Comments

Councilwoman Capalbo reported that she was pleased to announce that starting this Friday RIPTA will start a van service for elders in Westerly and Hope Valley to take them on trips such as shopping, medical appointments, etc. It will run from 9am to 2pm. During first weeks, it will be a free service, but later there will be a \$2 charge. She is hopeful this will start to address the need for transportation assistance in this rural area. Members of the Subcommittee congratulated Ms. Capalbo for her work on this issue.

There being not additional public comments, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

ATTACHMENT




HousingWorksRI
at Roger Williams University


SENIORS AND HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND

*A presentation to the:
Aging in Community Subcommittee of the
State Long Term Care Coordinating Council*

HOUSINGWORKS RI at RWU: SENIORS AND HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND



More About Us



- Founded in 2004, integrated into Roger Williams University in 2014
- Conduct research and analyze data related to housing affordability in Rhode Island
- Connect the dots between housing affordability and economic development, and outcomes in health and education

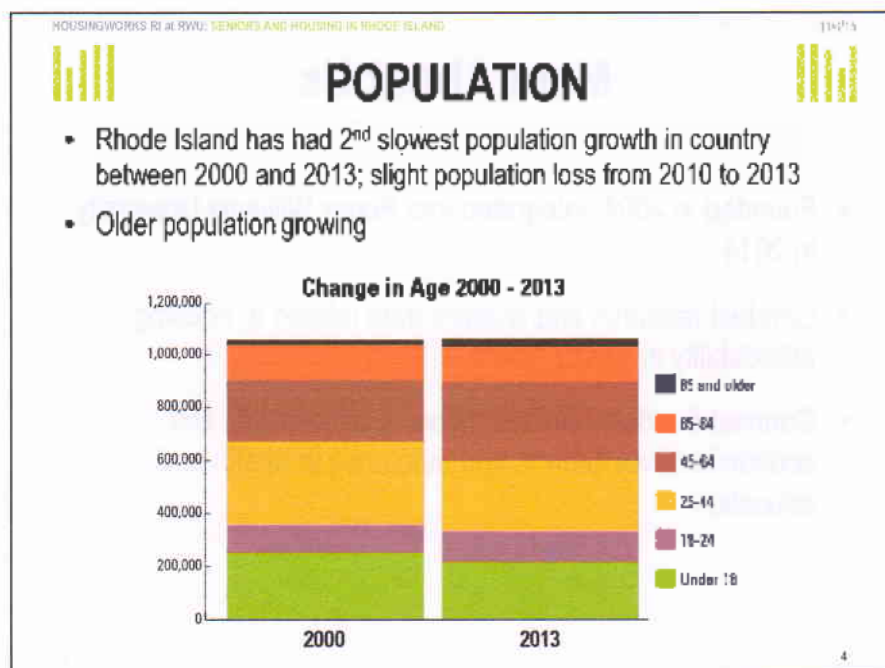
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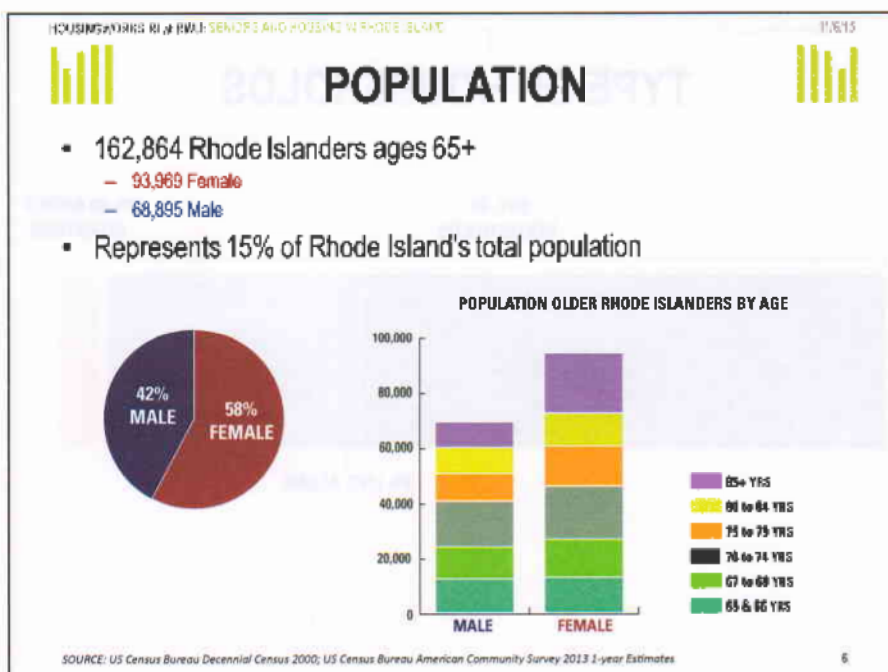
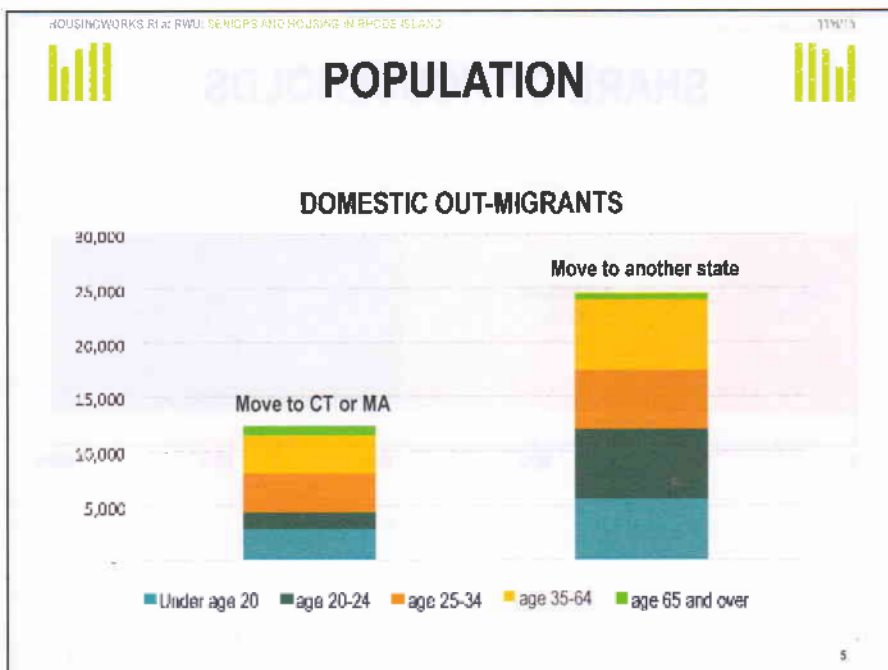
HOUSINGWORKS RI at RWJ: SENIORS AND HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND

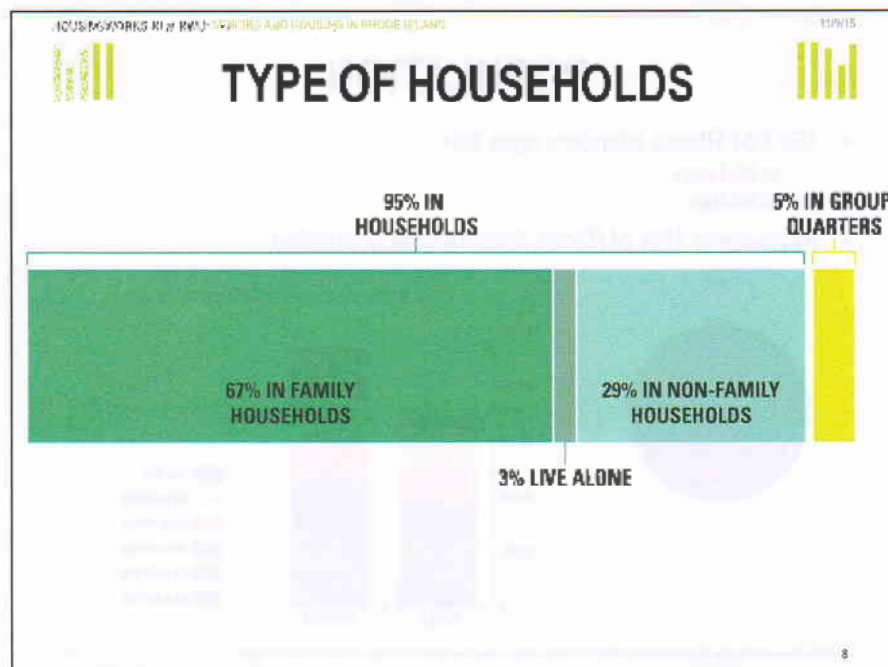
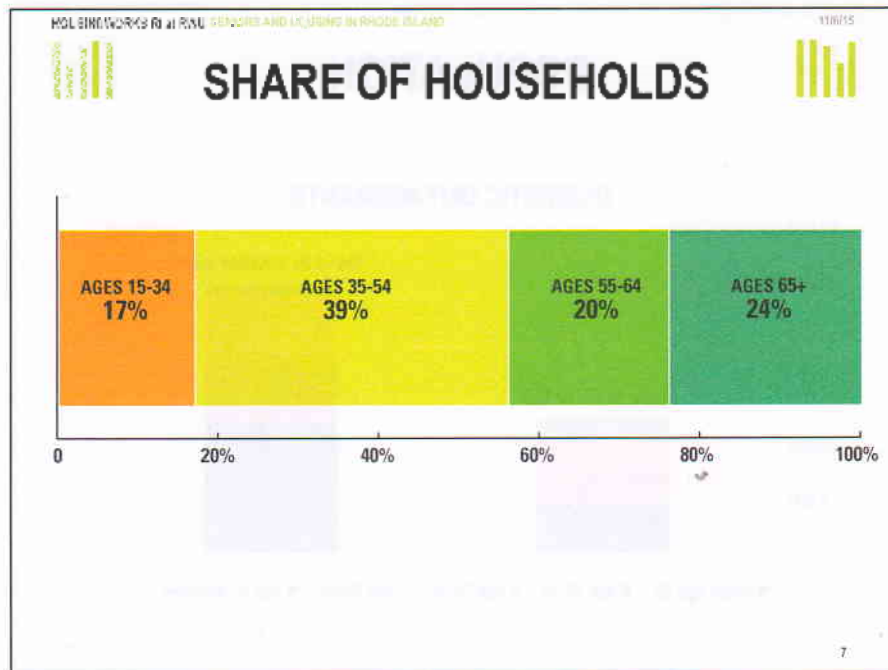
TODAY'S PRESENTATION

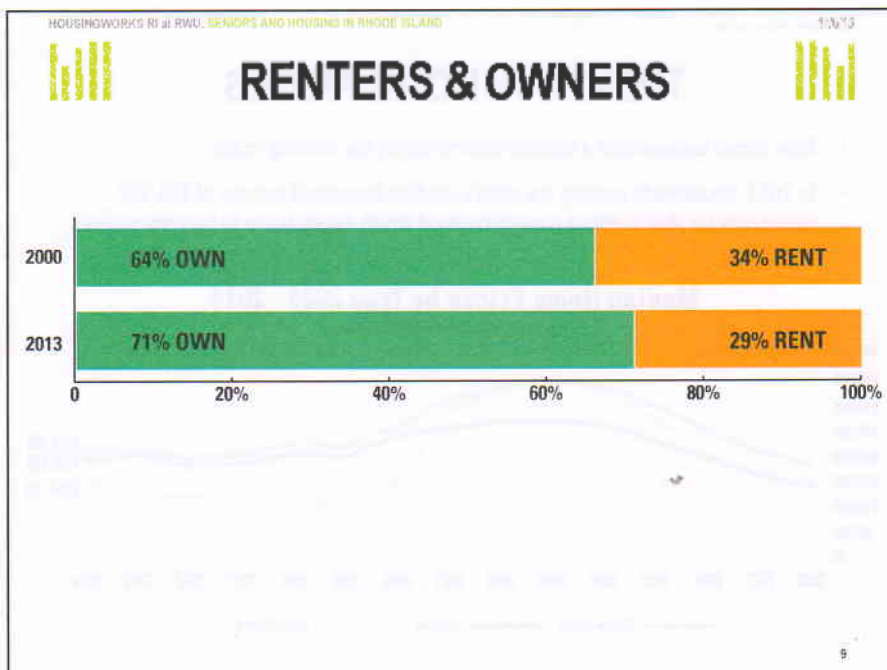
- General info about the seniors in Rhode Island (Ages 65+)
- Trends in housing prices
- Housing affordability
- "Affordable Housing"

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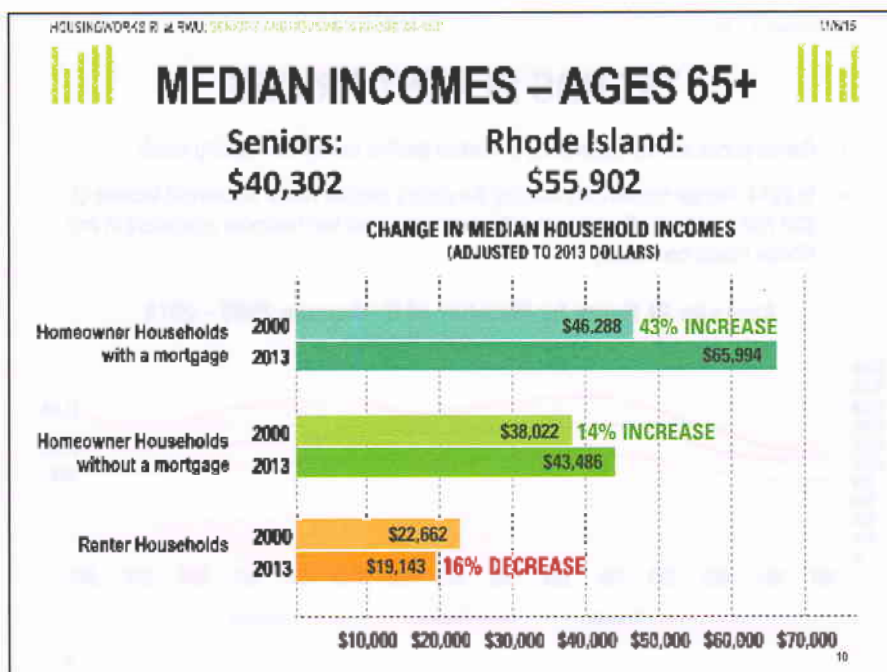




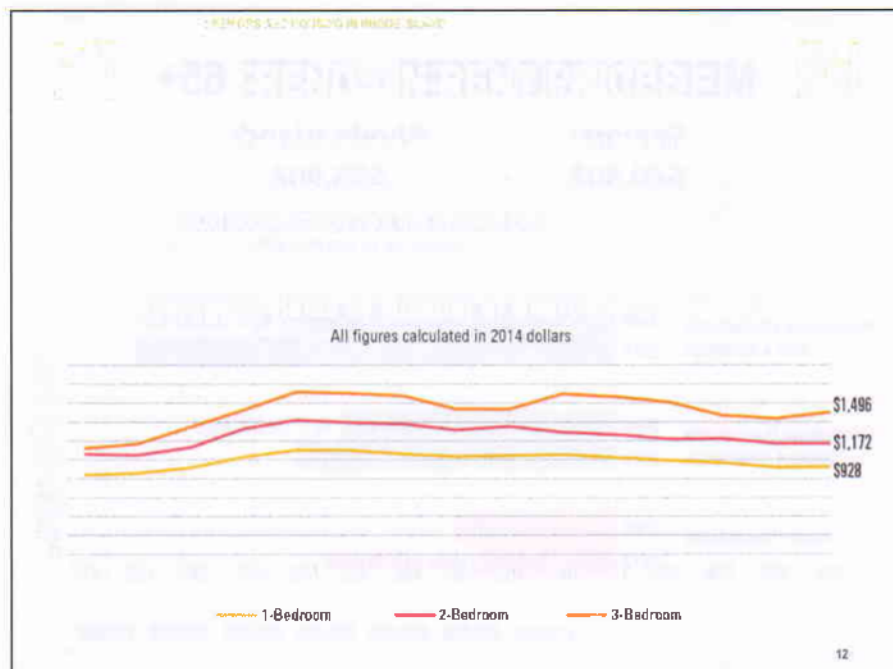


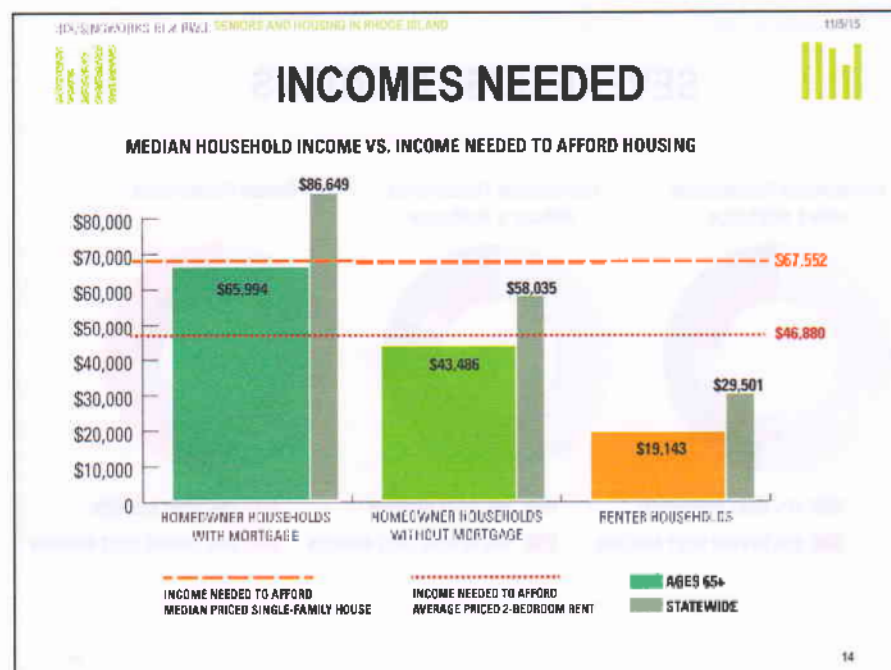
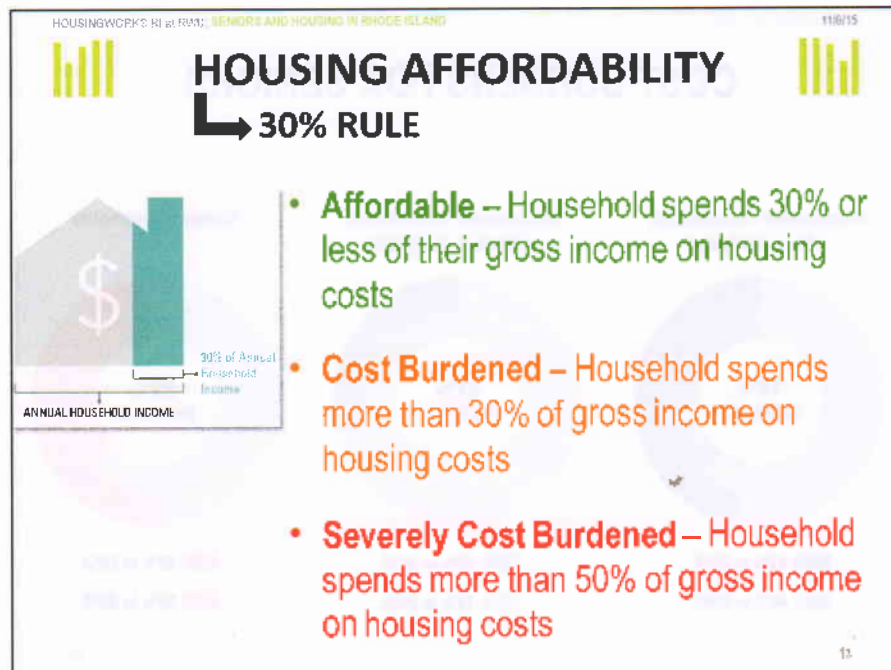


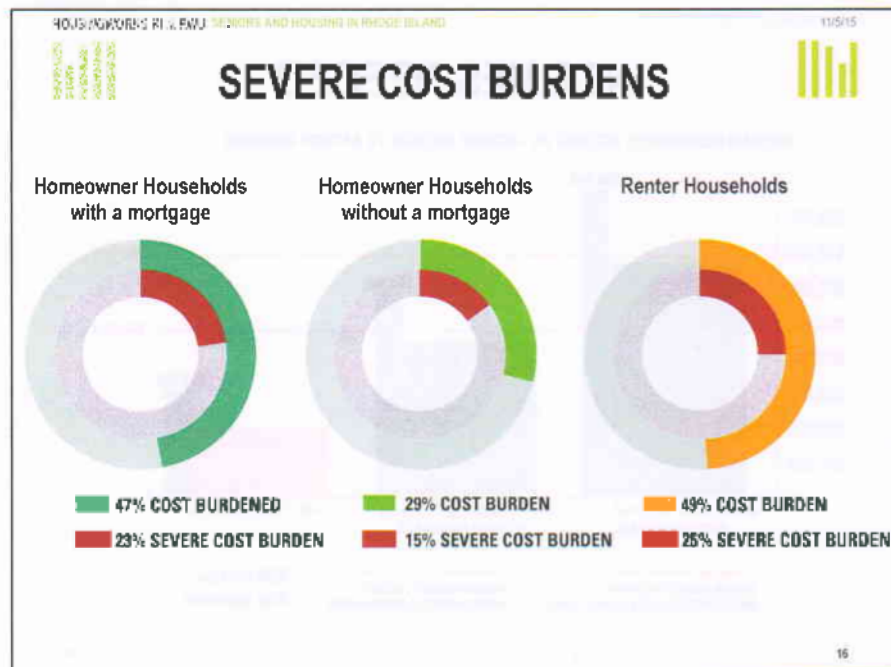
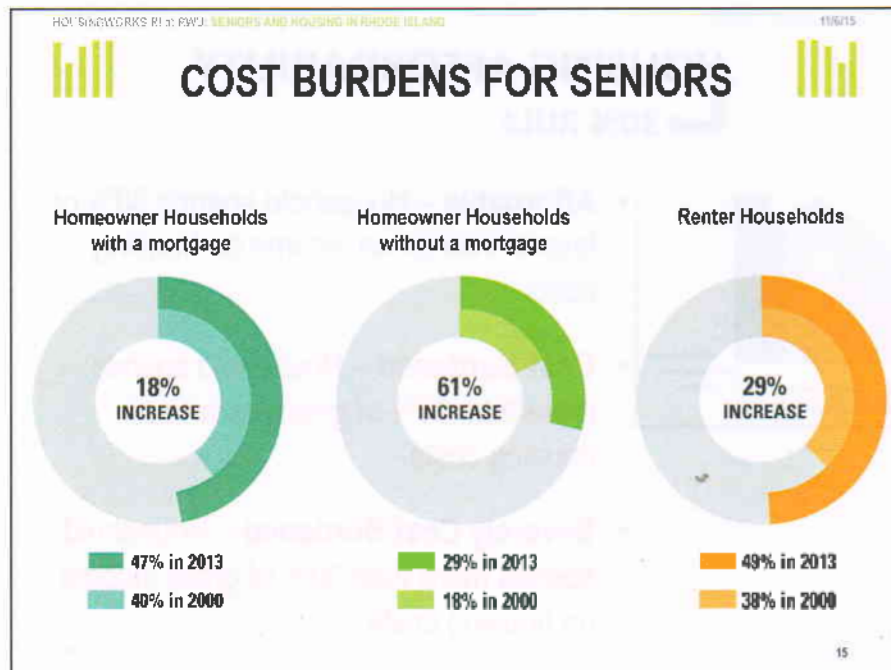
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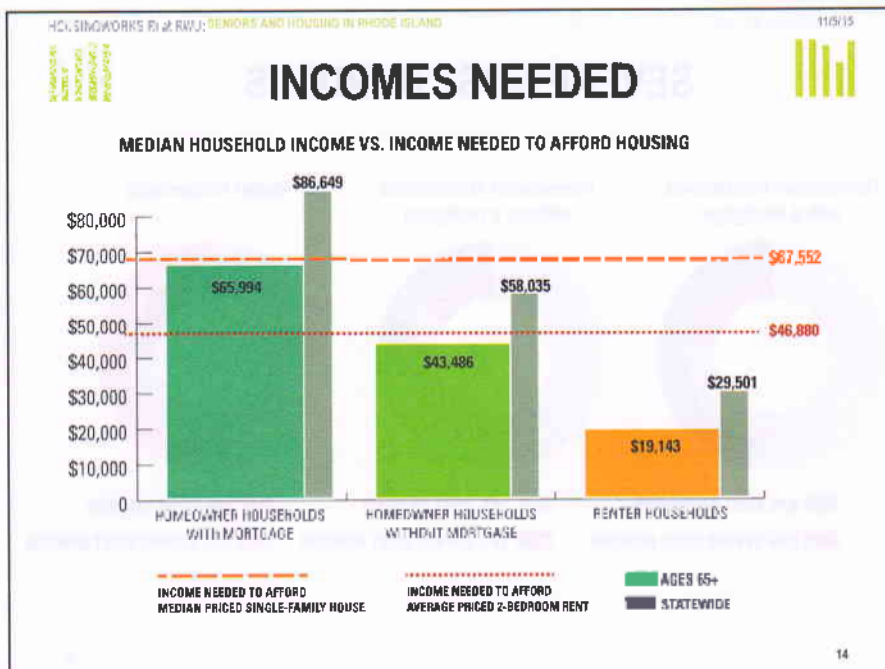
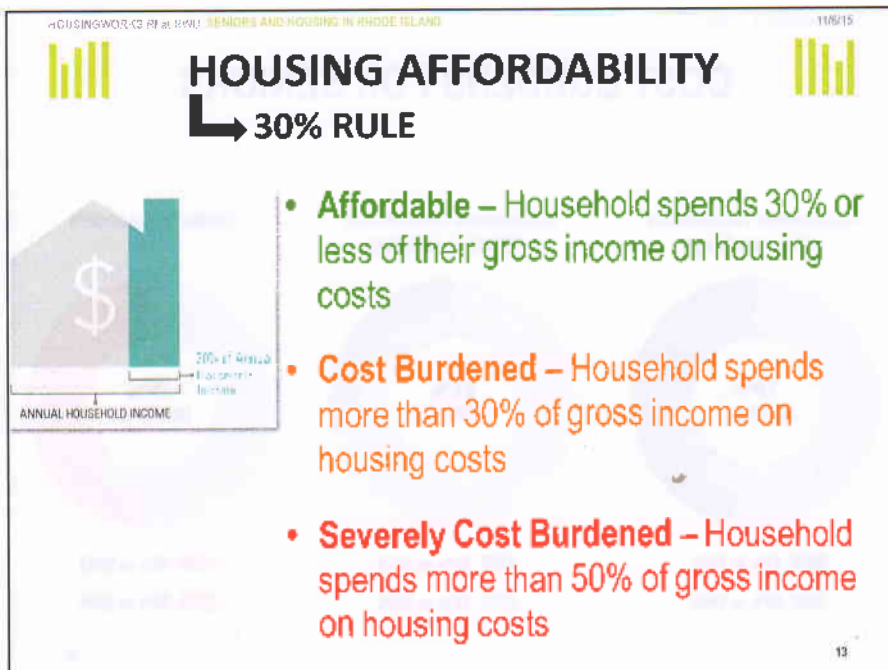


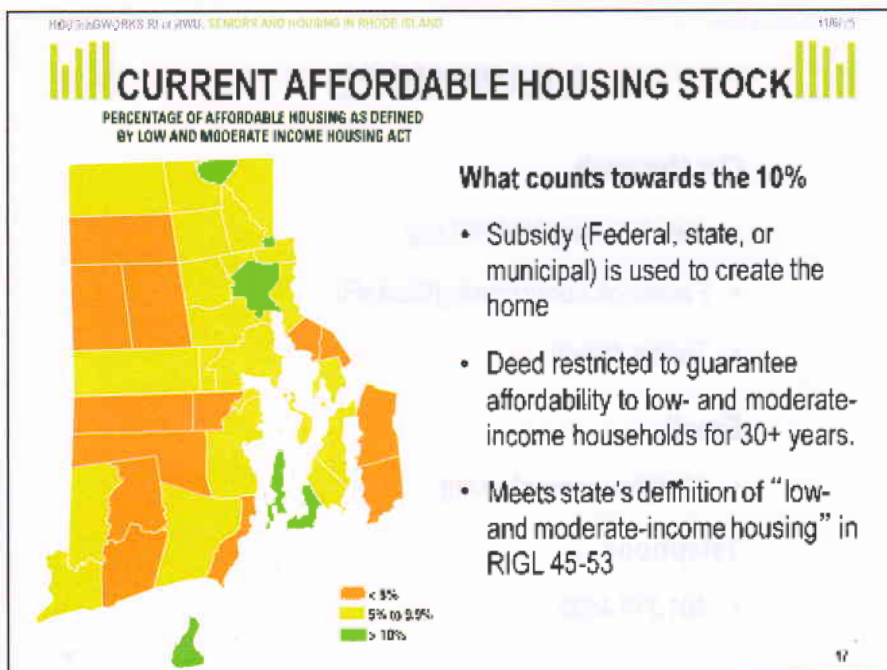
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HOUSINGWORKS RI at RWJ SENIORS AND HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND 11/9/15

TOP 10 HIGHEST ELDERLY UNITS

	Total	Elderly	Family	Special Needs
Providence	10,524	4,360	5,158	1,006
Warwick	2,001	1,057	150	104
East Providence	2,097	1,385	582	116
Pawtucket	2,799	1,351	1,714	234
Cranston	1,777	1,345	229	203
Woonsocket	3,045	1,276	1,612	157
North Providence	1,064	822	14	128
Johnston	999	737	149	113
West Warwick	1,129	714	295	120
Central Falls	884	632	200	52
Rhode Island	36,988	19,580	13,587	3,821

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 **LEARN MORE** 

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- Twitter @hwri

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